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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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The reply brief filed September 27, 2000 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bill Deane whose telephone number is (703) 306-5838. In addition, facsimile transmissions should be directed to Bill Deane at facsimile number (703) 308-6306.

October 24, 2000